Loss suffered by Railways due to Floods

1195. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the loss suffered by Railways due to floods in the country during the period from the 1st January, 1984 and 31st December, 1986 (state-wise) yearwise;

(b) the amount of loss suffered by Railways due to floods in the country specifically during this year (state-wise):

(c) whether Government propose to tajce any steps to overcome this situation; and

fd) if so, what are the steps Government propose to take to tackle the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from Zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by the Railways to safeguard against (he flood damages are detailed in the attached statement.

Statement

Steps taken to safeguard against the flood damages

Amongst the steps taken to prevent flood damage are the following:

(i) All bridges are carefully inspected every year and repairs to sub-structure, flooring, guide-bunds, pitching, etc. carried out as necessary.

(ii) Waterways of all bridges are cleared before the monsoons so that there is no obstruction to the flow of water.

(iii) Bridge cells on the Zonal Railways review the adequacy of waterways of important and vulnerable bridges. Some of the bridges are widened, raised, re-sited or additional bridges constructed as a result thereof, as considered necessary.

(iv) Wherever justified and otherwise feasible, the formation is raised and/or strengthened, pitched with stones. In extreme cases where there is a direct threat of attack by an eroding river channel, railway alignment may even be diverted away from the affected zone.

(v) During monsoons, night patrolling of track is introduced on sections likely to be affected by rains/floods. Stationary watchmen are posted at vulnerable spots and bridges. In addition, in the case of sudden severe storms, the permanent way gang mate, on his owja initiative, organises patrolling of track, irrespective of any other Patrolling that may be in force. Permanent Way Inspectors of Railways also undertake intensive patrolling of the track.

(vi) Arrangements are made *to* stockpile sufficient quantities of track materials, emergency girders, coal ash. ballast, boulders and necessary plant and equipment at suitable sites in advance so that the same can be rushed in an emergency. with the least possible delay.

(vii) Arrangements also exist with the various Meteorological centres to obtain from them advance weather warning messages so that the railway officials concerned can be in readiness to face any emergency that may arise in the event of exceptionally heavy rainfall.

(viii) Despite all the measures mentioned above, certain amount of flood damages is unavoidable, in case of exceptionally heavy rainfall, or in the event of failure of railway-affecting works, including marginal embankments of major rivers which are constructed and maintained by the State Govts. All the State Govts, have been requested to launch special drive for verification and updating the lists of railway affecting works (tanks, canals etc.) and ensure that these are regularly inspected and maintained in safe condition, with arrangements for prewaming the concerned Railway officials in case any emergency is apprehended.

Central grants to States for specific health programme

1196. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount is spent by Central Government for various specific Health Programmes in the country: if so, the details, thereof, and the amount spent during the last 2 years (state-wise and year-wise);